hartſhorn. Theſe ptiſans prevent the pains of the ſtomach, which this medicine ſometimes occaſions.

I have always given this medicine in a bolus incorporated with the bitter extracts, or cordial electuaries; by which method we partly guard againſt the pains of the ſtomach. Great care ought to be taken, not to make it up with conſerves or ſyrups of acid fruits, for the reaſons already given.

I am in hopes, that, notwithſtanding the prejudice, which prevails againſt this preparation, it will be uſed with ſucceſs in all the caſes above-mention'd; provided attention be given to the obſervations, which I have made in this paper. And it is to Dr. Pringle that we are indebted for an excellent medicine, which may be brought into familiar uſe, if people accuſtom themſelves to adminiſter it with prudence.

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## XLII. *Extract of a Letter from* John Browning *Eſq; of* Barton-Hill *near* Briſtol, *to Mr.* Henry Baker, *F. R. S. concerning a* Dwarf.

Dear Sir, Barton-Hill, Sept. 12, 1751.

Read Nov. 7, 1751. I AM juſt returned from Briſtol, where I have ſeen an extraordinary young man, whoſe caſe is very ſurpriſing. He is ſhewn publicly for money, and therefore I ſend you the printed bill, which is given about to bring company; and alſo a true copy of a certificate from the miniſter of the pariſh, where he was baptized, together with the atteſtation of ſeveral of the neighbours of great credit and

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and veracity, ſome of whom are perſonally known to me. To theſe I have likewiſe added my own obſervations, as neceſſary to clear up the caſe.

The certificate is as follows:

" THIS is to certify, that Lewis Hopkin, the bearer " hereof, is a man of a very honeſt character, and " has ſix children. His ſecond ſon Hopkin, whom " you ſee now with him, is in the fifteenth year " of his age, not exceeding two feet ſeven inches " in height, and about 12 or 13 pounds weight, " wonderful in the ſight of all beholders.

" The ſaid little man was baptized the 29 of " January 1736, by me

R. Harris,
Vicar of Lantriſſent, Glamorganſhire.

We have ſeen the above-mention'd youth, and have reaſon to think the contents above-mention'd to be true as ſet forth.

Edmund Thomas
Cha. Edwin
Matt. Deen
Hopkin Rees
Anthony Powell
David Thomas
Nich. Price
Wm. Cadogan.

The gentlemen, that have ſeen the youth, and have ſigned their names, are all of figure and fortune in the county of Glamorgan. Mr. David Thomas lives

lives in London, is an entry-clerk in the court of Chancery, and ſupplies country attornies with their writs, and lives in a lane or court near Gray's-Inn, Holborn.

I went myſelf to view and examine this very extraordinary and ſupriſing, but melancholy ſubject; a lad entering the fifteenth year of his age, whoſe ſtature is no more than two feet ſeven inches, and weight thirteen pounds; labouring under all the miſeries and calamities of very old age; being weak and emaciated, his eyes dim, his hearing very bad, his countenance fallen, his voice very low and hollow; a dry huſky inward cough, low and hollow; his head hanging down before, ſo that his chin touches his breaſt; conſequently his ſhoulders are raiſed, and his back rounded, not unlike a hump-back. His teeth are all decay'd and rotten, except one fore-tooth below. He is ſo weak, that he cannot ſtand erect without a ſupport.

The father and mother both told me, that he was naturally ſprightly, tho' weakly, until he was ſeven years old, would attempt to ſing and play about, and then weighed nineteen pounds, and was as tall as, if not taller than, at preſent, naturally ſtrait, well-grown, and in due proportion: but from that period he hath gradually declined, and grew weaker, loſing his teeth by degrees, and is now reduced to the unhappy ſtate I have been deſcribing. The mother is a very jolly healthy woman, in the prime of life: the father enjoys the ſame bleſſing. They both aſ-

ſure

ſure me, this lad has a ſiſter about ten years of age in the ſame declining ſtate. I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours moſt affectionately,

John Browning.

As new-born children frequently exceed in weight this youth of fifteen years, I take the liberty to communicate his caſe, believing it will not be thought incurious.

H. Baker.

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## XLIII. *A Letter from Mr.* Rich. Dunthorne *to the Rev. Dr.* Long, *F. R. S. Maſter of* Pembroke-Hall *in* Cambridge, *and* Lowndes's *Profeſſor of Aſtronomy and Geometry in that Univerſity, concerning* Comets.

SIR, Cambridge Oct. 5, 1751.

Read Nov. 14, 1751. THERE is a manuſcript in your college library, chiefly aſtrological, wherein there are five tracts of different authors concerning comets. One of them, intituled, *Tractatus fratris Egidii de cometis* (written on account of a comet, which appeared in the year of our Lord 1264) contains theſe paſſages relating to its place and motion: